Message Text

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TAGPS: PINT, PGOV, BL

SUBJECT: BOLIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH US,

NATIONAL ELECTIONS AND SEA OUTLET PROBLEM

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER ANAYA TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE BOLIVIAN PUBLIC SHOULD NOT BE CONCERNED BY THE US DELAY IN RECOGNIZING THE NEW BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THIS WILL COME "IN A FEW DAYS MORE OR LESS". NOR SHOULD IT BE CONCERNED THAT AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WILL BE CUT BECUASE THIS AID GOES TO THE POOREST SECTORS OF THE POPULATION. ANAYA ALSO SUGGESTED THAT NATIONAL ELECTIONS MIGHT BE HELD BEFORE EARLY 1980. REGARDING THE SEA OUTLET PROBLEM, ANAYA SAID RELATIONS WITH CHILE WOULD NOT BE RENEWED UNTIL CHILE DEMONSTRATES A CHANGE IN ITS POSITION. HE PLANS TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH ALL BOLIVIANS INVOLVED IN THE SEA OUTLET PROBLEM TO DEVELOP AN OFFICIAL BOLIVIAN POSITION, BUT THAT HE PERSONALLY FAVORS A "DEVELOPMENT ZONE" FOR BOLIVIA, CHILE AND PERU ALONG WITH THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE CITY OF ARICA. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH BOLIVIA'S AMBASSADORS TO WASHINGTON AND THE UN, CARLOS ITURRALDE AND MARIO ROLON RESPECTIVELY, FOREIGN MINISTER RICARDO ANAYA TOLD THE PRESS AUGUST 1 THAT "THE BOLIVIAN PEOPLE MUST NOT WORRY THEMSELVES OVER THE QUESTION OF US RECOGNITION OF THE NEW NATIONAL VOERNMENT, NOR OVER A POST-

PONEMENT OR SUSPENSION OF AMERICAN ASSISTANCE," BECAUSE US RECOGNITION WILL COME "IN A FEW DAYS MORE OR LESS". ANAYA SAID THAT BOLIVIA HAD NOT TAKEN ANY INITIATIVES TO SECURE RECOGNITION "BECAUSE THIS DEALS WITH A SITUATION OF THE PAST." ASKED IF HE HAD MET OR WOULD MEET WITH THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, ANAYA RESPONDED NEGATIVELY SAYING, "I HAVE NO REASON TO DO SO." HOWEVER, WHEN ASKED IF THIS ANSWER INDICATED THAT RELATIONS WITH THE US WERE NOT IMPORTANT TO BOLIVIA, HE RESPONED "YES, THEY ARE VITAL AS ARE RELATIONS WITH ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD IN TERMS OF EQUALITY AND RESPECT FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES."

3. ANAYA LINKED AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ITS HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. HE SAID BOLIVIANS SHOULD NOT BE CONCERNED BECAUSE "AMERICAN AID IS DIRECTED AT THE POOREST SECTORS OF THECOUNTRY, PARTICULARLY TO THE CAMPESINOS," AND THAT IN HIS OPINION, IF THE US PRACTICS A POLICY OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, "I DON'T THINK IT IS GOING TO SUSPEND THAT ASSISTANCE. THIS ASSISTANCE IS DEFINED IN TERMS OF PEOPLE AND NOT GOVERNMENTS. HUMAN RIGHTS IN OUR COUNTRY WILL BE ABLE TO BE DEVELOPED AND TO FLOURISH ONLY WHEN, IN A JOINT EFFORT, THOSE COUNTRIES WITH WHICH WE MAINTAIN RELATIONS, WHICH CONSIDER THEMSELVES, AND PERHAPS MAY BE, POWERFUL, AND WHO AT TIMES ARE BOASTFUL OF THEIR PHILANTHROPHY, UNDERSTAND THAT THEY MUST WORK TOGETHER WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHOSE POVERTY IS BASICALLY A RESULT OF THEIR DEPENDENCY." ANAYA CALLED ON THOSE WHO FORMULATED POLICY IN THE US TO CHANGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEIR POLICY ON BOLIVIA SO THAT "THE BAD MEMORIES OF INFLUENCES WHICH COULD BE MISTAKEN FOR HEGEMONY OR LACK OF CONSIDERATION FOR THE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGHNTY OF NATIONS" CAN BE FORGOTTEN.

- 4. ANAYA THEN PRODUCED COPIES OF AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE WASHINGTON POST JULY 31. THE ARTICLE BY CHARLES KRAUSE, ENTITLED "PUSHING DEMOCRACY IN BOLIVIA" AND WHICH QUESTIONS US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY ON BOLIVVA, WAS CITED BY ANAYA AS PROOF THAT BOLIVIAN DIPLOMACY HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN CHANGING BOLIVIA'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE. TWO OF BOLIVIA'S THREE MORNING DAILIES CARRIED ALL OR MOST OF THE POST ARTICLE.
- 5. ANAYA SAID THAT THE DATE MENTIONED FOR PROBABLE ELECTIONS, 1980, IS ONLY AN ESTIMATE. TI COULD BE BEFORE THAT DATE IF THE PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE. HE REAFFIRMED THAT DEMOCRATIZATION WILL BE A REALITY "AFTER THE ELECTORAL LAWS ARE ADJUSTED TO AVOID THE PROBLEMS OBSERVED IN TTE RECENT ELECTION". (THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC STATMENT BY A SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL THAT THE GOB MIGHT CONVENE ELECTIONS BEFORE EARLY 1980.)
- 6. REGARDING THE SEA ACCESS QUESTION, ANAYA SAID THAAT,

TO DEFINE EXACTLY WHAT BOLIVIA MUST DO BEFORE THE CENTENARY OF THE WAR OF THE PACIFIC, HE WOULD MEEET WITH EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THIS QUESTION REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL PERSUASION. HOWEVER, HE REJECTED THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW "MARITIME COMMISSION" (THIS REFERS TO THE COMMITTEE CALLED BY PRESIDENT BANZER IN 1974 TO STUDY THE SEA OUTLET PROBLEM) IN FAVOR OR MORE INFORMAL MEETINGS.

7. ANAYA SAID THAT NO OFFICIAL POSITION WILL BE FOMULATED UNTIL AFTER THE CONSULTATIONS. HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL VIEW IN FAVOR OF "A DEVELOPMENT ZONE (POLO)" WHICH WOULD BENEFIT BOLIVIA, CHILE AND PERU. ANAYA ALSO CALLED FOR THE INTERNATION-ALIZATION OF ARICA. HE ADDED THAT BOLIVIA MUST FIRST BE ASSURED OF A SOVEREIGN OUTLET TO THE SEA ANNO LATER OF SPECIAL RIGHTS FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITS EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

8. REGARDING RELATIONS WITH CHILE, ANAYA SAID THEY WOULD REMAIN SUSPENDED AS LONG AS CHILE "DOES NOT DEMONSTRATE A CHANGE OF POSITION AND AS LONG AS CLEAR SIGNS DO NOT EXIST THAT IT WISHES TO EFFECTIVELY PRESENT SOLUTIONS TO THE SEA OUTLET PROBLEM." END UNCLASSIFIED

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9. COMMENT: SOME TWELVE DAYS AFTERTHE PEREDA COUP THE AMERICAN FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE THE NEW BOLIVIAN GOVEERNMENT CONTINUES TO BE SOMEWHAT OF AN EEMBARRASSMENT TO THE GOB AND SERVES AS A REMINDER OF THE NEGATIVE IMAGE THE COUP HAS GIVEN BOLIVIA IN MUCH OF THE WESTER WORLD. CONSEQUENTLY, ANAYA'S REMARKS, AND PARTICULARLY HIS DISTRIBUTION OF COPIES OF THE KRAUSE ARTICLES, APPEAR TO BE DESIGNED TO REASSURE THE BOLIVIAN PUBLIC THAT THE PEREDA ADMINISTRATION IS SUCCESSFULLY CHANGING THAT IMAGE AND THAT US RECOGNITION WILLL BE FORTH-COMING SHORTLY.

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